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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Council

DDI #7143-82
15 September 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman, Weapons and Space Systems Intelligence Committee
Chairman, Scientific and Technical Intelligence Committee

VIA : Deputy Director for Intelligence

FROM : H. F. Hutchinson, Jr.
Acting Chairman, National Intelligence Council

SUBJECT : Proposal for an Interagency Study on Soviet Battlefield Laser Threat to US Forces

REFERENCE : Memo from D/OSWR to C/NIC, Same Subject, DDI-6870/82, Dated 23 Aug 82

1. I have reviewed the referenced proposal and believe it outlines an excellent approach to a key intelligence issue. It is clear that the deployment of anti-sensor laser weapons on the battlefield presents a major challenge to US weapon developers. The US Army Chief of Staff has recently reiterated his concerns over these developments. I believe these concerns and the other factors noted in the proposal argue for a prompt response by the Intelligence Community. [ ] 25X1

2. The most effective and efficient vehicle for such an assessment appears to be a joint WSSIC/STIC study. The assessment should include some projective thinking on where in the force structure these weapons may be deployed and how they would be used on the battlefield. This will require some work outside of the S&T Community. The study should be geared to the people who allocate R&D dollars rather than bench engineers and should be on as tight a schedule as possible. [ ] 25X1

3. MG Edward B. Atkeson, USA, National Intelligence Officer for General Purpose Forces, is prepared to cooperate fully in this project. He has spoken with General Meyer about Army concerns in this area and has recently begun a dialogue with the Army Deputy Chief of Staff for Research, Development and Acquisition and his staff on more specific Army requirements. I believe Ted can offer valuable insights as your committees begin defining terms of reference for the study. [ ] 25X1

H. F. Hutchinson, Jr.

cc: DDCI

CL BY SIGNER
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